

Homily on “The Good Shepherd” - April 28 & 29, 2012

A young enthusiastic Navy Helicopter Pilot, home on leave is all excited telling the story of the nut.

As complicated as that helicopter is, the rotor is held in place by a hexagonal nut. Do you know what they call that nut?

They call it the Jesus nut! With a little help, the son explained to the parents: just as by His life, death, and resurrection Jesus holds the Human Race together - so the nut holds the helicopter together.

That same mother wrote a book: “The Secret of Our Marriage” by Carolyn Moran. She saw Jesus in the same way - holding her marriage together, just like the helicopter. So too, removing Jesus, the helicopter and her marriage would fall apart.

We know a cornerstone will display historic information. In ancient building, without the cornerstone the building was doomed to destruction.

Similarly, Jesus holds the marriage together like the cornerstone and like the helicopter nut.

The gospel credits the Shepherd with holding the flock together. If our marriage is not what it should be or our family is in trouble, have we forgotten the nut God destines to hold it together? Maybe we left Jesus out. Maybe we haven't invited Him in? In the gospels we hear:

at a wedding water changed to wine,
Peter's mother-in-law's sickness changed to wellness,
a centurion's slave was healed,
two sisters invited Jesus to their home, and a brother was
raised to life
Jairus' daughter was healed.

If we invite Jesus into our home, won't He do the same for us?

Today's reading invites us to invite Jesus back into our homes and back into our lives concretely.

Immediately to the right of our front door, in a place of honor, mom hung a picture of the Sacred Heart. It was old. Every May and October, we prayed the Rosary on our knees (I liked the October Rosary when the wool carpets were down replacing the grass rugs - terrible pain in waffled patterns on my kneecaps!

But time and again, no matter where we moved, there was always a place of honor for the Good Shepard. It had an effect on our lives, our home, and our friends and relatives.

It sent a message - the Shepard of this family is Jesus Christ. He holds our marriage together, our family, and our home. He continues to work miracles of love among us. And He will do the same for you if you invite Him in.